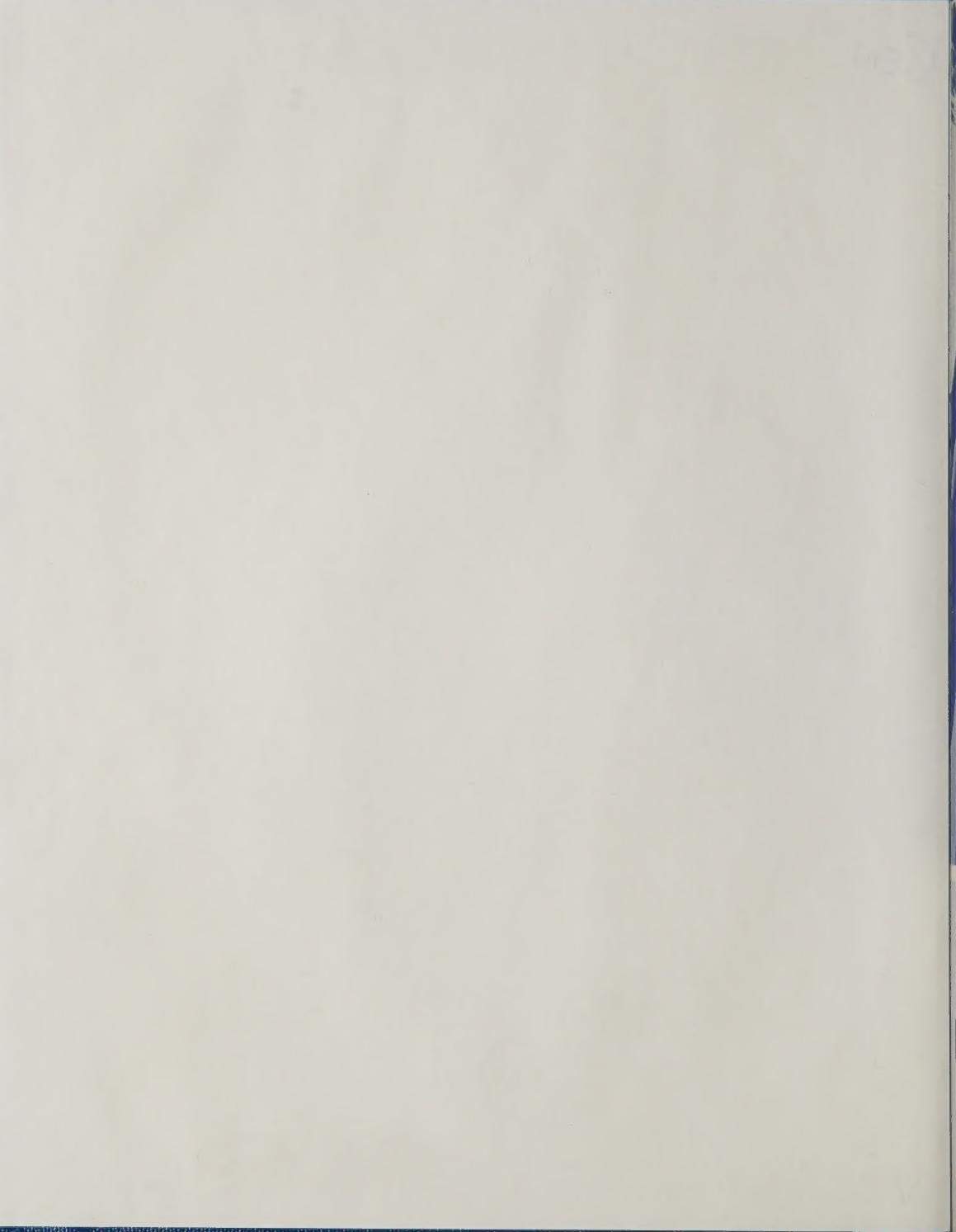






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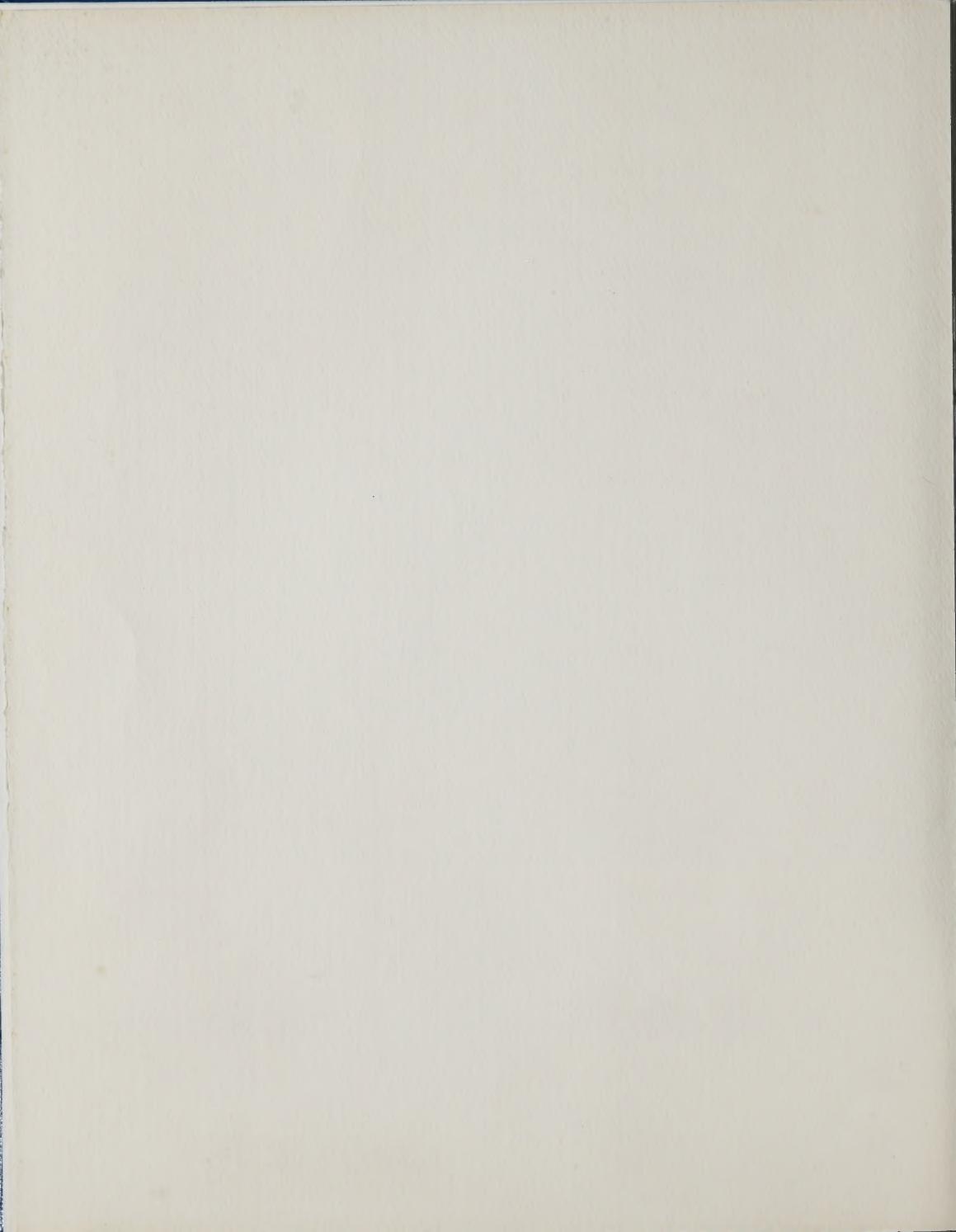
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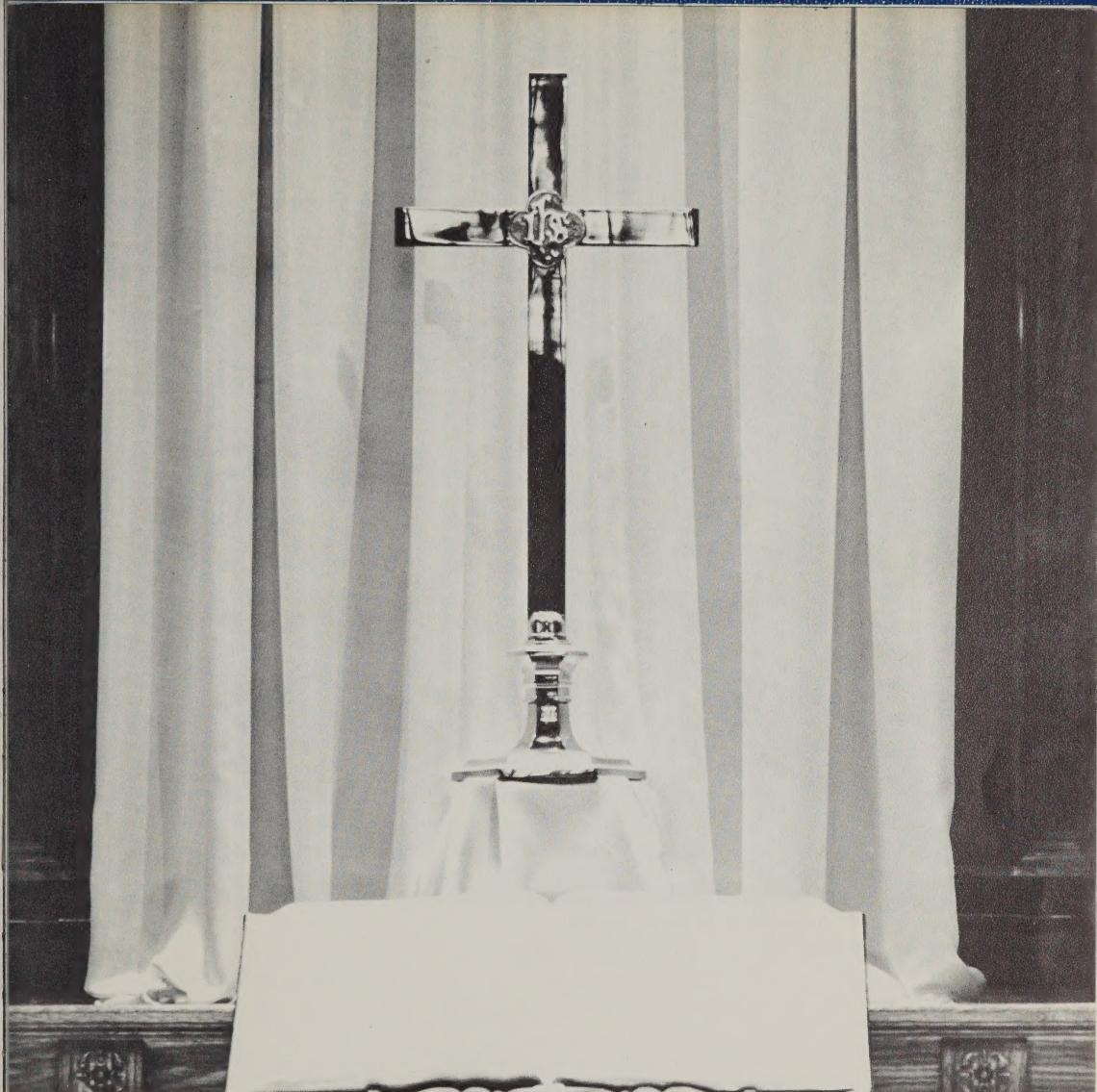
YEARS OF GRACE
1908-1958

ST. PAUL'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN





"In the Cross of Christ I Glory. . ."

FOREWORD

This Golden Anniversary Booklet makes no attempt to give a detailed history of St. Paul's nor to memorialize those countless numbers of men and women who have been instrumental in building the "Kingdom of God" among us. Such a task would indeed be praiseworthy but this small volume could never do it complete justice.

It is, however, a way of stopping along our pilgrimage to take account of what has been handed down to us from the past and see what this means for the future. One half century has now marched by before the eyes of this congregation and with each step of time God has left His footprints deeply in the lives of all of us. It is therefore dedicated to Him, the triune God and His Saviour Son, to whom all the saints of St. Paul's, of the past and present, give glory and honor and praise. '

May we all, therefore, in reviewing the past be stirred with thanksgiving for the sacrifices put forth to bring us to this fiftieth year, and for the gracious God in heaven who has steered His chosen people to the glory of His Name and the salvation of many souls.

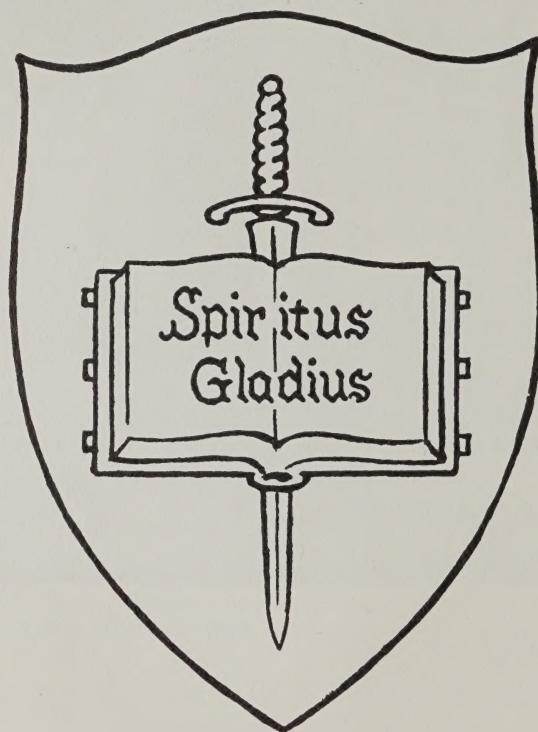


1908-1958

Enter into His Gates with Thanksgiving. . .

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Symbol of Saint Paul

Message From Your Pastors



Dear Friend of St. Paul's...

Our congregation bears the name of one of the most energetic of the Lord's apostles, the Apostle Paul. He was so on fire with the love of God that he eventually chose persecution rather than deny His Faith.

In our history there have been many who have shown the spirit of our namesake. We laud them and cherish their memories together with the history they have helped to write.

But, as we give thanks for the past, let us remember that there will also be a future. In this future there will be men and women whose lives will be a prelude to an eternity of regrets, unless we, by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Word, can bring to them an eternity in heaven.

Can we stop now? Our namesake will not permit it and the past will not allow it.

May each memory of these "Fifty Years of Grace" sharpen our senses to the opportunities that await us in the tomorrows that are yet to come.

"To God Alone Be Glory!"

Your willing servants in Christ,

Carl A. Brauer

Vernon W. Purick

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

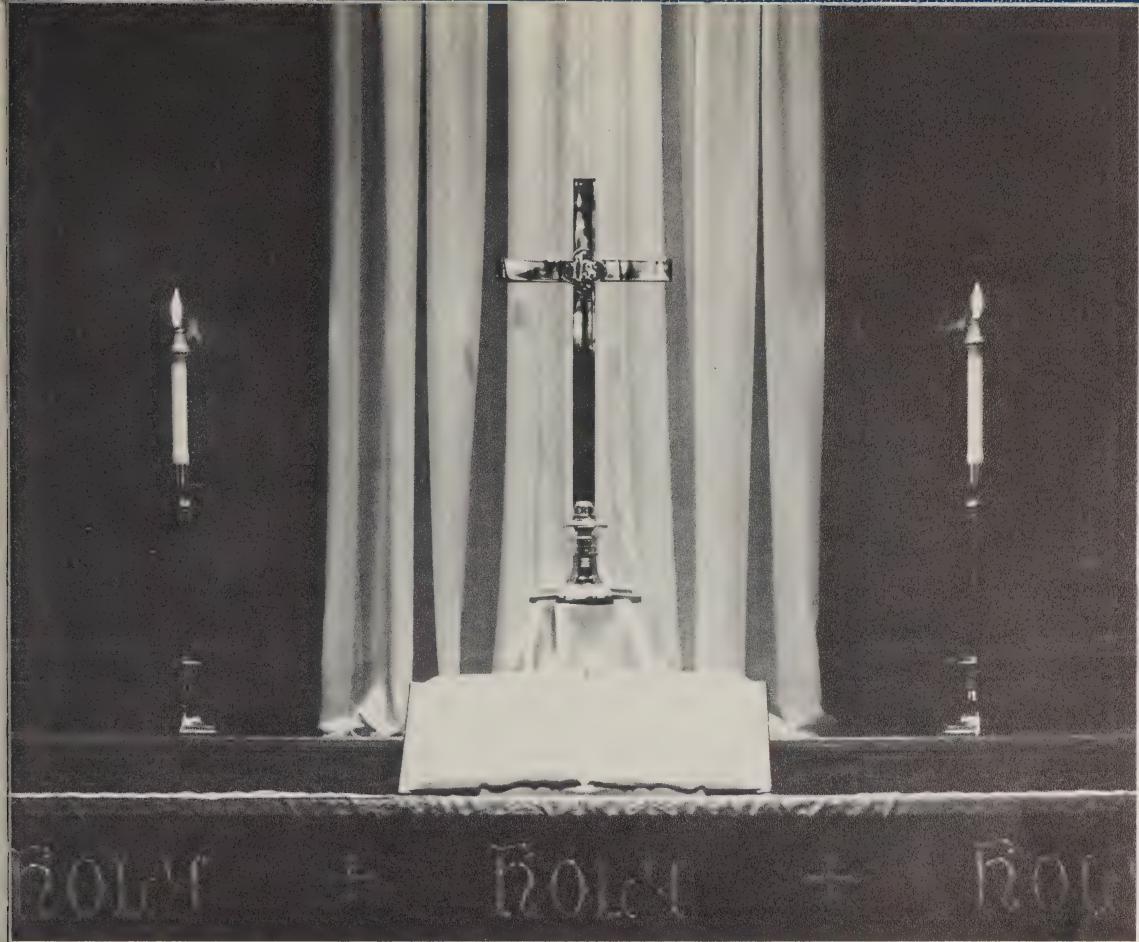
A Church Is Born-1908

God, a man, and a prayer. The man? The Rev. Herman A. Brauer, first pastor of the church. God answered his prayer and a church was born.

After the seed was sown, God blessed it, and in 1908, on January 20th, our congregation was formally organized with 21 charter members signing the newly written constitution. Three months previous a church building had been erected, on the corner of Chapin and West Huron, with funds from the Church Extension Board of the Michigan District. With these important milestones conquered the hardships of laboring for a flock were not so difficult, and the young church began to take on growth and life. The same man who offered a prayer for God's blessings in 1906, also now thanked God in 1908 for having answered his prayer.

But now there were others to pray with him. The entire flock prayed to their Heavenly Shepherd to increase the fold. From its small beginning the fold has now grown so that it looks somewhat different, but it still prays the same prayer and has the same shepherd.

In 1919 the present Senior Pastor, the Rev. Carl A. Brauer, came to continue the work and has worked joyously until this present day. In 1955, the Rev. Vernon W. Aurich joined him to help gather in the harvest of souls.



"Thy word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path."

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Glancing Back Through Fifty Years

THE FIRST PASTOR AND THE FIRST CHURCH

In August of 1906, a young man stepped from a train at the Ann Arbor depot into a town that was to be his home for the next thirteen years. No one greeted him or shook his hand for no one realized that he would be the first pastor and organizer of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. For that matter, no one was interested and some even resented that he came to found a church. He was the Rev. Herman A. Brauer, older brother of our present senior pastor.

Encouragement and discouragement both had their share of the next few months. Door bell after door bell was rung. Some made promises that were never kept, but the prospects looked favorable enough to rent a half burned-out house on West Huron to begin services. Chairs were borrowed from business men downtown, a rugged table served as an altar, and a coal stove provided heat. Three people attended the first service and one the second. Men without God's guidance and promise might have quit, but the answer to many prayers urged the young pastor to continue. His efforts were blessed so that by October of 1907 a small church was dedicated on the corner of Chapin and West Huron with funds from the Michigan District Church Extension Board, and in January of 1908 our congregation was formally organized with 21 charter members.

The next years saw the young pastor working diligently with his new flock. More were added to the membership. The Sunday School and parochial school, both begun in 1908, gave training to the young. A Ladies' Aid was organized for benevolence and beautifying the church. A Young People's Group was gathered and Lutheran students from the University of Michigan were served regularly by the pastor.

THE SECOND PASTOR AND THE SECOND CHURCH

The Rev. Herman A. Brauer served his flock until 1919 when he accepted a call to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Detroit. On May 4th of that year his younger brother, the Rev. Carl A. Brauer, present senior pastor, was installed to replace him. Under his guidance, more interesting chapters of the church's history were to be written. Among his first tasks was the organization of a Men's Brotherhood to provide sociability among the male members of the church.

Very soon after the second Rev. Brauer appeared on the scene, the congregation began to think in terms of expansion. Therefore, in December of 1919 it purchased a large 17 room house on the corner of Third and W. Liberty. This house furnished quarters for the parochial school, a home for the pastor and soon his new bride, while the additional rooms were rented out. Society meetings, student gatherings, and other activities were held in the house until 1928 when it was razed to make room for the construction of a new church. This, which is our present church building, was erected at a cost of over \$90,000, and was dedicated in March of 1929. The old church on Chapin and West Huron was sold and a filling station was built in its place.

With its new house of worship, the congregation took on new courage and vision. Though all the pews were not filled, the congregation had built for the future, and the future indeed was bright.

In January of 1933, the congregation marked 25 years of God's Grace. No one could dispute that they had been blessed. They now had a new church building and the 21 charter members had grown to 422 communicants and 664 baptized souls. The various religious classes flourished and the Sunday School had an enrollment of 242 with 64 on the cradle roll. The pastor led his congregation in songs and prayers of thanksgiving as they together looked back over 25 years of building with Christ.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 1938 marked the congregation's thirtieth birthday. During that year, the church was decorated and the beautiful mural of the Ascension of our Lord, still hanging above our altar, was dedicated. The mural was donated by the Ladies' Aid and has added immeasurable richness to our worship. It reminds us weekly of the One who is the center of our praise.

Moving on to the forties, we find other notes of interest. In 1943 Pastor Carl Brauer, together with such help as needed, opened Sunday Schools in East Ann Arbor and Dexter, giving birth to two new congregations. These, however, were later given over to the Wisconsin Synod to develop. In May of 1944 the congregation celebrated its pastor's twenty-fifth year in the ministry and the next year purchased a parsonage at 414 West Liberty. These events, together with the final payment on our present church building in 1948, made the forties a significant decade.

MORE WORK AND MORE WORKERS

As the parish grew the work load naturally became heavier. This, besides the care of Lutheran patients in the local hospitals and ministering to the Lutheran students on the University campus, caused the congregation to think in terms of providing assistance for its pastor. The first relief came in the person of the Rev. Alfred T. Scheips who came to work full time with the Lutheran students at the University. He was called by the Mission Board of the Michigan District and was installed on August 30 of 1942.

However, with the growing city, more help was desired. To provide this, the congregation called its first vicar, Mr. Arthur Schroeder, from our Seminary in St. Louis. He arrived in September of 1942 and stayed until the next summer. Because of the vicar shortage, another vicar was not received until 1950. This was Mr. Raymond Schmidt who arrived in September and worked until January of the next year and was followed by Mr. Philip Schlessmann who assisted our pastor until July of 1952. Then, in August of 1953, Deaconess Eleanor Weidner arrived to assist with the work for one year and in July of 1955, the Rev. Vernold W. Aurich arrived in answer to the congregation's call for a full time assistant pastor. He was made co-pastor with the Rev. C. A. Brauer in February of 1957 and still serves in this capacity.

A NEW PROBLEM AND A DETERMINED ANSWER

The addition of more workers was significant of a new problem that the congregation was facing. Those pews which were empty when the church was dedicated were now filling up. More Lutherans were moving to Ann Arbor and converts were numerous. Additional space was needed and plans were begun. An all member meeting was called in January, 1948, and again in 1949 to discuss the type of addition desired. The first measure was to purchase a new parsonage in 1952 at 1208 Linwood and to use the house next to the church for Sunday School and society activities. This was a temporary solution to the problem, but a more determined answer was needed. In January of 1954 a second service was added to accommodate the Sunday morning worshippers, and Sunday School was held in all parts of the church as well as the house next door. Thus, it became even more clear that the lack of space problem needed greater attention.

The final solution came in the building of an educational and recreational unit, which is known as the Parish Hall and was dedicated in March 1957. This building has provided us with a large auditorium-gymnasium, eight Sunday School rooms, pastor's offices, a Sunday School office, a nursery, a stage, and an enlarged kitchen. Together with the present church, the Parish Hall stands as a bold witness to the faith of the members of St. Paul's in the gracious God who hath given us eternal life in Christ Jesus His Son. A second parsonage was also purchased in 1957 and is now occupied by the co-pastor.

As we enter this fiftieth year, our communicant membership has risen to over 950 and our soul membership to 1450. Have these been fifty years of Grace? Yes, by the Grace of God we are what we are.





"Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness."

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Voters Assembly and Church Council

The fifty year history of St. Paul's is closely linked with the Voters Assembly and Church Council because these are the two groups which formulate the policies of our congregation.

Their decisions are guided by the Word of God and the best interests of all concerned, striving to build the Kingdom of God in our community. In this they have been ably assisted by the various societies.

The Ladies Aid Society

A very important part of the history of St. Paul's lies with the Marys and Marthas who have served this congregation in the Ladies' Aid Society. Only three weeks after the organization of the church, this ladies' organization came into being.

The Ladies' Aid has as its two chief objectives to practice benevolence and to beautify the church. In conjunction with these, the Aid through the years has given assistance to educational and charitable institutions of Synod with money, food, and clothing. The mural over our altar, the altar hangings, the church carpeting, and the furnishings in the ladies' lounge are only a few ways in which the Aid has beautified the church. The ladies also remember our servicemen, students in training for church work, the needy around the world, and the Red Cross.

In recent years, the Aid has also participated in the program of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League which has as its objective promotion of Missionary Education, Missionary Inspiration, and Missionary Service.

With their prayers, gifts, and interest, our ladies "Serve the Lord With Gladness" by cooperating and participating in the work of these two organizations.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Men's Club

Though together frequently in an official capacity, the men of the congregation felt the need to gather in a social way. On November 20, 1919 the Men's Club was organized for this purpose.

The Club began with 17 members and presently has approximately 90. Regular monthly meetings are held for all men who wish to attend where wholesome activities provide Christian sociability.

In recent years, the Men's Club has also participated in the work of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. In this program, they help support the International Lutheran Hour, promote family worship and Bible study, and cultivate interest in missions. The improvement and maintenance of our property and the Boy Scout program are other ways in which this group has contributed, valuably, to the life and growth of St. Paul's.

The Walther League

The young people, too, have played their part in the life of our church. In 1933 our Young People's Society joined the International Walther League, an organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for keeping young people in the church.

Over the years our young people have contributed valuably to the church. They have done sewing, hospital work, supported charities, helped finance the Walther League's TB Sanitorium in Wheatridge, Colorado, given plays, taught Sunday School, and helped interest all of our young people in the church. Their largest project was to purchase the pipe organ which we still use in our services.

At present we have both a Junior and Senior Walther League catering to younger and older young people. With their Bible study, topics, vespers services, and fellowship, they have done much to serve "Church and Home".

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Christian Education

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Following this scriptural truth, Christian Education has been an important part of our program of training for Christian faith and life. The interest of the congregation in Christian training was already shown in 1908 when it opened a full time parochial school in the basement of its first church. In 1920 this school was moved to a house at 420 W. Liberty and was continued until 1925.

After the parochial school was closed, Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning classes were begun to provide the fourth "R". The Wednesday afternoon classes continued for two years but were dropped when children were no longer permitted to leave public school early for religious training. The Saturday classes, however, continued and are still being held today.

During the complete fifty years of our existence, Sunday School has always been held for children and teen-agers. Bible stories with life application and memory work have formed the majority of its program. Many of our members have taught in the Sunday School and it has enjoyed remarkable success. In 1956 an adult class was added to its curriculum.

All religious instruction for children points forward to the day of confirmation. During the year preceding confirmation, our children attend a special confirmation class which concentrates on Christian Doctrine. These classes have usually been confirmed on Pentecost. Adults, too, seeking membership in the church, attend classes which also ultimately end in confirmation.

Besides the above, much instruction has also been carried on in midweek Bible classes, topic study in the societies, and teacher training courses.



"The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom."



". . . Come before His Presence with Singing. "

Church Music

Music has added immeasurable richness to our worship. For most of the history of our church various people have used their voices to enrich our praise. At present we have two choirs: the Senior Choir and the Youth Chorus. They are both under capable leadership providing opportunity for enjoyable and worthwhile singing for all age groups of the church. Our faithful organists and soloists have also played a very important part in helping us to raise our voices in praise to God.

Other Activities

Though of recent origin, there are three other groups which have joined our family of activities. These are the Athletic Club, the Boy Scouts, and the Married Couples Club. Though the Athletic Club and the Boy Scouts are now inactive, the Boy Scouts will be re-activated soon. The Married Couples Club meets monthly and endeavors primarily to welcome new couples into the church and to provide opportunity for Christian couples to enjoy fellowship together.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



*"Arise and be Baptised
and wash away thy sins... "*

Today and Tomorrow

Scenes like the one above are viewed in our church frequently. They are evidence that the Lord is daily adding to the church "such as should be saved". Children and adults have come to us from all quarters to drink the waters of salvation.

The small group of 21 who were a part of St. Paul's at its beginning has now grown into a group of approximately 950 communicants and 1450 souls. Our present Sunday School has a total enrollment of 358 plus 125 children on the cradle roll below Sunday School age. The present church dedicated in 1929 and the Parish Hall dedicated in March of last year reflect how the growing number of people demanded expanded facilities. For each new challenge there has been provided a way to meet it and continue on to new plateaus.

(Continued)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

But what of tomorrow? The picture at the baptismal font gives a forshadow of things to come and the picture at the communion rail tells why many more will come through our doors to drink the waters of Salvation. Shall they go away thirsty? Not if tomorrow brings us God's guidance as richly as we have felt it in the past. The figures show that in the last ten years our congregation has increased more than 50%. If this rate of increase continues, we can expect a communicant membership of nearly 1500 with a soul membership of nearly 2200 by the end of the next decade.

These are only figures and how true they may hold, we have no way of knowing. But this we do know: there will be a tomorrow and in that tomorrow God will still be building and St. Paul's will still be growing.



". . . shed for you for the remission of sins. . ."

Hymn for the Fiftieth Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Hear the praise we bring to Thee.
All our hearts are filled with gladness
On this Anniversary.
Thou hast surely been beside us
With Thine own abundant Grace,
And Thy presence we have cherished
In this warm and hallowed place.

To our God we give all glory,
He alone deserves our praise.
Never hath He us forsaken
In these rich and bounteous days.
In His work He has been near us,
Rich redemption hath supplied,
And His spirit has descended
Each one He hath sanctified.

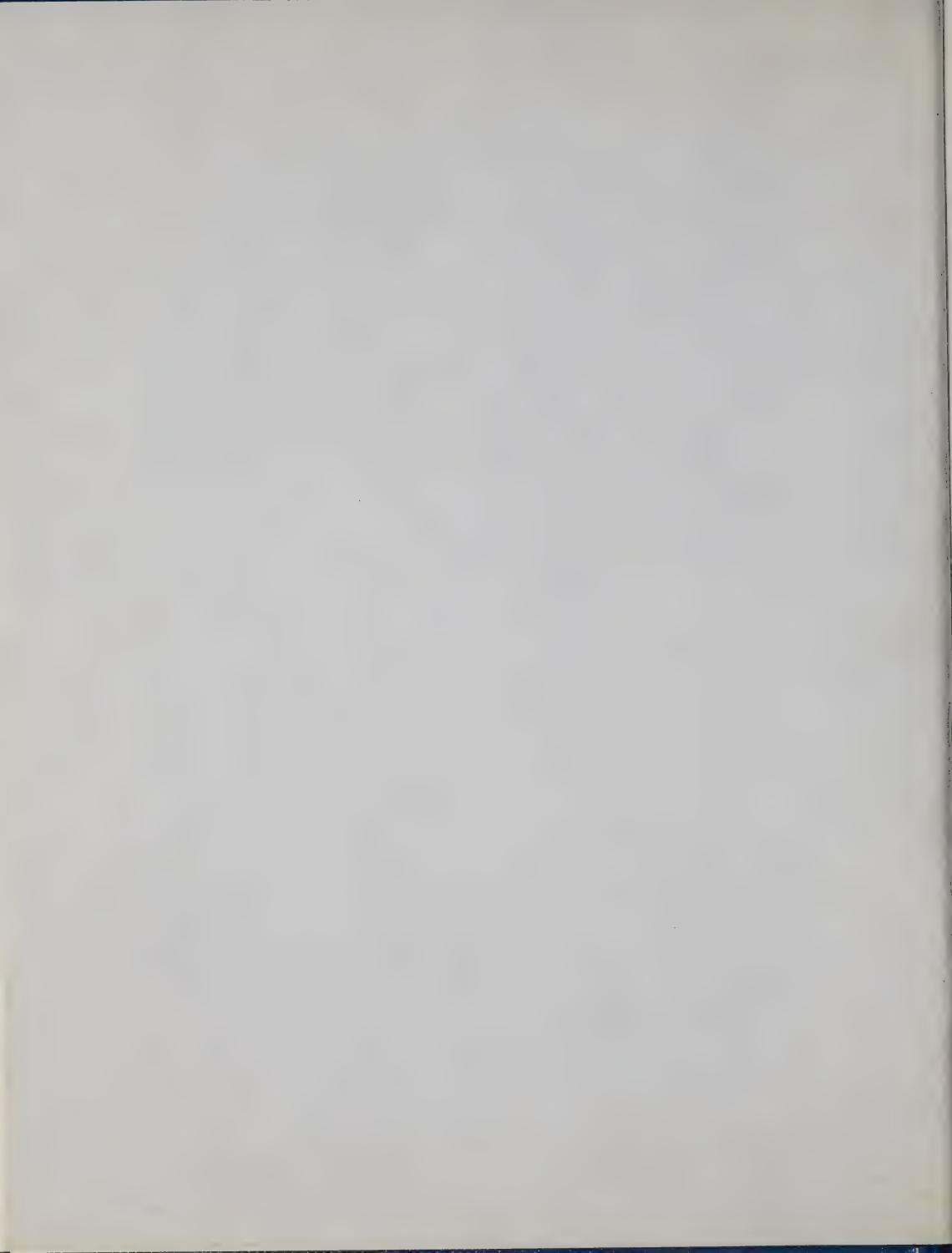
Men you gave us who delivered
Sermons from Thy Holy Word
And with Sacraments our Hearts were
Made to be of one accord.
Love and faith did stir within us
By Thy Holy Spirit's power,
Peace, and love, and true salvation
On each one didst surely shower.

Few were those in the beginning
Who chose for our name St. Paul's,
Following their blessed Master
Who for sinners daily calls.
More God brought to work beside them
Men and women who had found
Their salvation in their Savior
And the Gospel's glorious sound.

Lord we thank Thee for those faithful
Saints who are in heaven with Thee,
Friends and loved ones we remember,
Who wear now the crown with Thee.
We have felt their absence keenly,
Yet we joy that we shall be
Close beside them in the morning
Neath Thy throne eternally.

Till the Resurrection Morning
Help us here Thy work to do,
Bring us men and bring us women
Bring us faithful children, too,
That we may "Good News" deliver
Of the blessed Savior's Cross
And the truth by inspiration
May we never suffer loss.









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